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NOTES AND NEWS

Reading, Penn., is the only city in the country with a larger board of education than New York. What does Reading do with it all?

So women are actually to get the same pay as men in the New York city public schools. The senate passed the bill by a vote of 35 to 10.

The New York city board of education does more toward educating the public through evening lectures than all the other boards of education in the United States.

Boyes estimates that 8,000,000 American children under fifteen are constantly schoolless. He bases his conclusions on the latest report available, that from 1904-5.—*Midland Schools*.

France has no truant schools and no effective attendance law, nor can imprisonment be inflicted on the parents. The industrial and reformatory institutions of that country are for criminals only.

Chicago is not up to the standard in the matter of children's playgrounds, according to an address by G. S. Hall. It devotes seventy-three acres to them, while Philadelphia gives one hundred and ten, and Boston two hundred.

The average pay for men teachers in this country is \$55 per month, and for women \$42, the latter constituting 96 per cent. of all. Of our nearly half-million teachers, between one-third and one-fourth leave the profession every year.

In many small towns where bird-study has become a part of the regular school course, the milliners refuse to carry hats adorned with birds, saying that the demand is so small that nothing is to be made of such stock.—A. D. CROMWELL, in *Midland Schools*.

The Illinois Farmer's Institute, in a convention at Peoria, petitioned the educational commission for a bill making elementary agriculture a necessary part of a teacher's equipment. Would the farmers want this requirement made for every town and city in Illinois?

The school children of Cincinnati have been making a heroic attack on insect pests this spring, under the leadership of the superintendent of the parks. It is to be hoped that the average citizen finds its effects more noticeable than the results of the "street-cleaning day" in Chicago.

The New York public library is trying to get into closer connection with the public schools. Twice a month 393 educational institutions are visited by library assistants, who give addresses on the use of the public library, and post notices concerning educational affairs connected with it.

The Louisville *Courier Journal* says that Kentucky has for years been burdened with 5,000 school trustees who can neither read nor write, and 10,000 more who are absolutely devoid of any idea of the duties of a school trustee. Of course we must allow for the round numbers of newspaper exaggeration.

West Virginia has passed a revised school law. Two of its most progressive clauses provide for the increase of the compulsory attendance age limit to fifteen years, and the consolidation of schools and transportation of pupils in the rural districts when asked for by 75 per cent. of the voters in the sub-districts affected.

The opponents of prohibition are at last aroused to the necessity of carrying the fight into the enemy's country. Signs of their interference in educational matters have already begun. The German-American Alliance, of Davenport, Iowa, has sent a letter to the school board protesting against "a one-sided course in temperance physiology." Hitherto the prohibitionists have had things their own way in physiology at least.

Boston has appropriated \$58,000 for the beginning of a play-ground scheme. The work of the vacation schools has been absorbed into a new department, "the Department of School Hygiene," which is to develop these playgrounds. To the department also will be turned over six playgrounds now under the park commission, each of them to be in charge of instructors in athletics. Playgrounds now attached to schools are to be thrown open at other than school hours.

The Home Gardening Association of Cleveland is a flourishing organization. The children of the parochial as well as of the public schools are receiving seeds this year, and prizes are awarded each autumn for the best gardens of various kinds. A training-garden has been in operation for two years for seventy-five boys recommended by their teachers. They receive practical instruction with a view to directing them to gardening, farming, forestry, and kindred pursuits.

The *Chicago Teachers' Federation Bulletin* contains an interesting list of social machines that have sprung into activity during the past quarter-century, all of them touching the public schools at some point. The following are a few: day nurseries, school children's aid society, free kindergarten associations, Religious Education Association, Social Education Association, Juvenile Court, parental schools, Vacation School and Playground Committee, Public School Art Society, parents' and teachers' clubs.

The sixth and seventh grades of Webster, Mass., have a novel method of studying civil government. They looked up the number and character of the local public offices, formed two parties, nominated candidates and held an election. By the courtesy of the town clerk the loan of a "sure-enough ballot-box" was procured. All the detailed formalities of election were followed. Then the successful candidates were required to familiarize themselves with the duties of their offices. It must have been both amusing and instructive.

English has at last been almost universally adopted as the language in the Porto Rican schools. It has come about quite naturally, no direct attempt having been made to change the language of instruction for fear of antagonizing the people. But the new custom seems to have come about, according to Commissioner Faulkner's report, through a certain prestige of aristocracy which immediately attached itself to the so-called "American-schools," and led to the overcrowding of all English-taught classes. Ponce and San Juan were the first towns to adopt English regularly.

The Chicago public library board has located two of its sub-stations in public school buildings—one in the Burr School and the other in the Washington School—the board of education furnishing the rooms, fixtures, heat, light and janitor service. The advantages of this plan should be numerous. The children will learn the uses of the public library, while the reading public that patronized the substations will be led to visit and take an interest in the schools and is it too much to hope that with the substations in the schools the children will derive benefit in the selection of their books from the influence and advice of teachers?

Boston's present board of education has done a good thing in establishing a special class for delinquent and wayward boys, says the *Journal of Education*. Hitherto the courts have been the only means of dealing with such boys. The present class is an attempt to correct delinquency without branding the boys by a court sentence, and a term in a reform school, and in it only those boys are put who under the old practice would be brought before the judge. Especial work in gymnasium and manual training is given them. The class has justified itself, for only one out of twenty-five boys was finally sent to court for continued misbehaviour.

Each country seems to have a different way for solving the problem of education in morality. Germany has enforced religious instruction in the public schools. The parents of each child may choose for it the Catholic, Lutheran, or Jewish instruction, which is then given by teachers approved both by those churches and by the state examining board. In France, the public schools were secularized twenty years ago and religious teaching forbidden in them. But fearing an increase in juvenile immorality, on account

of the void thus created in the curriculum, the French made strenuous efforts to supply the defect by a new kind of moral instruction for every grade. Love of country and the instincts of the gentleman are made into a kind of secular religion. America has as yet reached nothing but the most desultory kind of training in all such matters. This, thinks G. S. Hall, in an address reported in *Midland Schools*, is the great failure of our education, and one which needs immediate attention.